

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 20, cancel claims 11-19, and add claims 21-35 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information with multiple fields from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on ~~similarities between said subscriber's profile information wherein all of the~~ similarity wherein said multiple fields in each subscribers' profiles ~~in said group~~ are similar ~~to each other~~; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

2. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of registering profile information further comprises the steps of:

entering biographical information of said subscriber.

3. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of registering profile information further comprises the steps of:

entering personal preferences of said subscriber.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising stated in claim 1, wherein the step of grouping said subscribers further comprises the steps of:~~

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarities between said subscriber's profile information and said fellow subscribers' profile information wherein all of the subscribers' profiles in said group are similar to each other;

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers;

utilizing an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber's profile information and said fellow subscriber's profile information, wherein preferences are assigned integer values concatenated to form a lookup key, and used to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two preferences; and

summing similarity values for all profile preferences to create a final similarity total for said subscribers.

5. (Original) The method stated in claim 4, wherein said step of utilizing an algorithm further comprises the steps of:

requiring that the similarity values between subscribers exceeds a threshold value.

6. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

grouping said groups into composite groups based on similarities between said group's profile information.

7. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of grouping said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

utilizing said subscriber's own matching criteria for establishing an acceptable level of similarities between said subscribers and said fellow subscribers for forming said group.

8. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said groups of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

selecting meeting times for said group; and

notifying said subscribers in said group of said meeting times.

9. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

posting group messages for said groups.

10. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

posting real-time dialog between said subscribers of said group.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method stated in claim 11, further comprising the steps of~~ A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information, including biographical information on personal preferences, of said subscriber into said database;

entering a group selection criteria that identified characteristics and interests which all subscribers must have to be included in a candidate group;

creating a candidate list of subscribers based on the group selection criteria;

grouping said subscribers from said candidate list with at least two fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarities between said subscriber's profile information and said fellow subscribers' profile information wherein all of the subscribers' profiles in said group are similar to each other;

providing capability whereby said subscriber selects final group members from the candidate list;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers by applying an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and said fellow subscribers, wherein preference disclosed in said subscriber's profile information are assigned integer values concatenated to form a lookup key, and used to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between the two preferences;

summing similarity values for all profile preferences to create a final similarity total for said subscribers; and
displaying said group of said subscribers.

21. (New) The method stated in claim 21, wherein the size of the group can be specified for grouping of said subscribers into said group.

22. (New) The method stated in claim 21, wherein the subscribers preferred meeting times are considered as criteria in grouping said subscribers into said group.

23. (New) A method for grouping groups of subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber group access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber group with at least two of said fellow subscriber groups to form at least one group based on similarity wherein multiple fields in each of subscribers' profiles are similar; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

24. (New) The method stated in claim 23, wherein said step of utilizing an algorithm further comprises:

requiring that the similarity values between subscribers exceed a threshold value.

25. (New) The method stated in claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

grouping said groups into composite groups based on the similarities between said group's profile information.

26. (New) The method stated in claim 23, wherein the step of grouping said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

utilizing said subscriber's own matching criteria for establishing an acceptable level of similarity between said subscribers for forming said groups.

27. (New) The method stated in claim 23, wherein the step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

selecting meeting times for said groups; and

notifying said subscribers in said group of said meeting times.

28. (New) The method stated in claim 23, wherein said step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

posting group messages for said groups.

29. (New) The method stated in claim 23, wherein said step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

posting real-time dialog between said subscribers in one group.

30. (New) The method stated in claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

deleting and adding said fellow subscribers from said group.

31. (New) The computerized method stated in claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

deleting and adding said groups from said composite groups.

32. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps

of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

using an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and other subscribers' profile information, wherein profile fields are assigned values and used to create a lookup key to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two fields;

summing similarity values for said subscriber and other subscribers to create final similarity totals between subscribers;

grouping said subscriber with at least two said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity totals between all subscribers in said group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

33. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

using an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and other subscribers' profile information, wherein profile fields are assigned values and used to create a lookup key to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two fields;

summing similarity values for said subscriber and other subscribers to create final similarity totals between subscribers;

grouping said subscriber with at least two said fellow subscribers to form at least one group wherein multiple fields in each subscribers' profile are similar; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

34. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

using an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and other subscribers' profile information, wherein profile fields are assigned values and used to

create a lookup key to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two fields;

summing similarity values for said subscriber and other subscribers to create final similarity totals between subscribers;

grouping said subscriber with at least two said fellow subscribers to form at least one group of a specified size wherein multiple fields in each subscribers' profile are similar; and communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

35. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two said fellow subscribers to form at least one group of a specified size wherein multiple fields in each subscribers' profiles are similar; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.